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SERVICE

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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week of: May 14 - May 20, 2007**

**Number: 11**

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## CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 20, 2007

Recent showers were welcomed in the Commonwealth of Virginia during the week ending May 20, 2007. Days suitable for field work were 5.6. Topsoil moisture was adequate. Cooler temperatures at night slowed down some crops and pasture growth. Small grains were in fair to good condition. Some farmers were planting full season soybeans and finishing up corn planting. Vegetable farmers were readying their plant beds and transplanting summer vegetables. Strawberry picking is in full swing with average yields and good quality. Other farm activities included: fence and barn repairs, shearing sheep, calf processing, liming and fertilizing and hay making.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 20, 2007	5	25	66	4
May 13, 2007	2	28	68	2
May 6, 2007	1	13	83	3
April 29, 2007	1	19	79	1
April 22, 2007	3	11	60	26

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#### IN THIS REPORT:

Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. (AWIS) Weather Table	pg 2
Crop Condition Percent	pg 3
Crop Progress Percent, with comparisons	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3, 4

**AWIS WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 20, 2007**

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
<b>NORTHERN</b>							
Woodstock	86	37	58	-7	0.78	0.00	3
Warrenton	83	42	63	0	0.54	-0.41	2
Winchester 7 SE	86	40	59	-4	0.96	0.12	2
Dale Enterprises	87	37	57	-6	0.36	-0.41	3
<b>WESTERN</b>							
Glasgow	88	39	59	-6	0.67	-0.17	2
Roanoke AP	87	43	63	-2	0.38	-0.53	2
Waynesboro	77	39	55	-7	0.79	-0.05	2
Staunton AG	83	40	58	-3	0.27	-0.57	3
<b>CENTRAL</b>							
Charlottesville	82	37	60	-6	0.53	-0.47	2
Piedmont Res ST	84	44	61	-3	0.79	-0.26	3
Bremo Bluff	87	40	63	-3	0.99	0.02	3
Richmond AP	86	47	64	-3	0.71	-0.20	3
<b>EASTERN</b>							
Eastville	81	45	62	-4	0.95	0.18	2
Wallops Island	82	41	61	-5	0.63	-0.14	2
Williamsburg	83	45	64	-4	0.75	-0.31	2
Keysville	83	41	61	-4	0.62	-0.27	2
<b>SOUTHWESTERN</b>							
Blacksburg AG	80	37	55	-5	0.21	-0.70	3
Wytheville	77	33	53	-8	0.39	-0.52	2
Saltville	80	36	57	-5	0.29	-0.76	1
Richlands	78	35	56	-2	0.38	-0.67	2
<b>SOUTHERN</b>							
Stuart	82	40	61	-4	1.05	-0.04	2
Danville AG	85	42	62	-6	0.68	-0.23	2
Chatham	82	35	58	-6	0.68	-0.30	2
Martinsville	82	35	59	-5	0.24	-0.74	2
<b>SOUTHEASTERN</b>							
Norfolk VA	85	43	63	-5	0.78	-0.11	2
Oceana	84	41	63	-4	0.59	-0.34	2
Emporia	83	44	62	-4	0.72	-0.17	2
Newport News	84	42	63	-4	1.41	0.52	4

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

**WEATHER & CROPS****Week Of May 14 – May 20, 2007**

<b>CROP CONDITION PERCENT</b>					
<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very Poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
Pastures	2	9	35	49	5
Livestock	0	4	21	62	13
Other Hay	3	18	43	32	4
Alfalfa Hay	1	13	43	37	6
Corn	0	3	33	57	7
Winter Wheat	2	7	29	52	10
Barley	0	5	32	57	6
Peanuts	0	0	10	90	0
Cotton	0	0	10	90	0
All Apples	10	18	66	6	0
Peaches	55	32	12	1	0
Grapes	0	8	46	46	0

<b>CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS</b>					
<b>Crop</b>	<b>This Week</b>	<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>5 Year Avg.</b>	
Corn Planted	88	81	90	87	
Corn Emerged	61	56	73	68	
Soybeans Planted	18	11	26	24	
Barley Harvested	3	NA	NA	NA	
Flue-cured Tobacco Transplanted	90	50	84	81	
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	18	9	10	18	
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco Transplanted	90	12	38	53	
Peanuts Planted	63	31	78	73	
Cotton Planted	90	60	94	92	

**REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY**

Comments are based on comments reported by Extension Agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

## **WESTERN**

### **HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)**

Dry weather early in the week has slowed growth on pastures and hay meadows. Wide spread showers late in the week provided some temporary relief. Sheep shearing, calf processing, fence building, liming and fertilizing pastures are main activities on the farm.

## **NORTHERN**

### **ACCOMACK (Jim Belote) (cont.)**

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)  
Some soaking rain found across the area last week, helpful to planted crops and growing forages. Hay crop looks to be 50% below normal and pastures running low for this time of year. Fertilizer applications on hayground after first cut will be the next chance to set a higher yield for the 07 crop.

### **FAUQUIER (Tim Mize)**

Rains early and late in the week have helped pastures. Corn planting is on track and the rains have been adequate for the initial growth. Soybean planting has begun.

Page 4

## **REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, cont.**

## **CENTRAL**

### **CAMPBELL (Scott Reiter)**

Hay making has progressed well over the last two weeks. Yields range from 30-90% of an expected first cutting. Light rain showers this week have helped all newly planted crops. Strong winds have dried out the soil surface even though rainfall has been received across most of the county.

### **CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)**

Hay and livestock producers continue to cut, cure and bale hay, weather permitting. Some producers have cut and baled barley for livestock feed due to a shortage of hay. Vegetable farmers are readying plastic-raised beds and transplanting tomatoes, melons, squash and other summer vegetables. Crop farmers are planting full season soybeans and finishing up corn planting. They also continue to scout small grain crops for insects and diseases. Some wheat has been treated for powdery mildew; cereal leaf beetles have not been a serious problem, so far. Soil moisture continues to be adequate. Pastures and hayfields have put on good growth. This week promises to be a good dry week and much hay will be cut.

## **EASTERN**

### **ACCOMACK (Jim Belote)**

Excellent growing conditions. High winds caused excessive drying of soils and crops but timely rains recharged moisture in most areas. Corn up in 7 days in most fields and looking very good. Acreage will be much higher than last year. Tomatoes vigor excellent. Farmers scouting fields for insects and disease. The crop year is off to a good start. There will be no cotton in the county this year, will be replaced with corn.

### **WESTMORELAND (Sam Johnson)**

Had .2 to .5 inch of rain which helped perk up crops. Corn is up and looking good for the most part. Growth is behind normal due to cooler temperatures, particularly at night. Some full season soybeans being planted, a few have emerged. Small grains look fair to good overall. Starting to notice some more of the freeze injury that occurred first weekend of April. Overall disease problems on small grain not too bad. Cereal leaf beetle on wheat not a big problem this year, only a few fields sprayed. More vegetables are being planted as strawberry and asparagus harvest continues. Some hay has been harvested.

## **SOUTHWESTERN**

### **PULASKI (MJ Fisher)**

Pulaski County experienced another week of extremes. Early in the week there was a light frost on two nights. We also had high temperatures during the week in the upper 80's. Three days saw light drizzle to rain but the total precipitation for the week was less than two-tenths of an inch. Forages are growing but they look weak and in some areas they have a "thinned" appearance. Area grape growers have begun to comment on bud damage left over from the April freezes with most saying that they had limited damage on most plants but they still have shoots from most buds.

### **WYTHE (Joseph W. Massey)**

Grass and alfalfa first cutting yields are down about 50-60% of normal. The freezing weather early on caused the plants to reach maturity at a shorter height. Farmers are closely watching pastures, as yields also have been less than normal. More moisture and moderate temperatures are needed since most pastures in this area are cool season grasses and legumes, will continue to monitor.